

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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P R 210046Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VICTORIA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMCONSUL BELIZE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BH, GT, UK, GH

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT ON BELIZE

REF: VICTORIA 748

1. THE UK-GUATEMALA DISPUTE OVER BELIZE IS NOT NEW. IT DATES FROM EARLY IN THE LAST CENTURY, WHEN GUATEMALA, CLAIMING RIGHTS OF SUCCESSION FOLLOWING ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN, ASSERTED ITS CLAIM TO BELIZE. BOTH PARTIES AGREED IN 1859 TO A TREATY WHICH WOULD HAVE RESOLVED THE DISPUTE, BUT DIFFERENCES OVER A ROAD-CONSTRUCTION CLAUSE IN THE TREATY PREVENTED THE SITUATION FROM BEING COM-
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PLETELY RESOLVED. GUATEMALA DENOUNCED THAT TREATY IN THE 1930'S, AND CLAIMS THAT ITS DENUNCIATION ON THE BASIS OF BRITISH NON-COMPLIANCE RETURNED THE SITUATION TO THE PRE-1859 SITUATION.

2. THE US FAVORS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE SELF-GOVERNING COLONY OF BELIZE TO ACHIEVE

INDEPENDENCE. DISCUSSION BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND THE UK HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE EARLY 1976. WE ARE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO THE INTERESTED PARTIES AND CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF FAVORING ONE PARTY OR ANOTHER.

THE TWO RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE AT THE UNGA THIS YEAR WERE SUPPORTED ALTERNATELY BY GREAT BRITAIN AND GUATEMALA, WITH EACH OPPOSING THE DRAFT SUPPORTED BY THE OTHER. A UNITED STATES VOTE IN SUPPORT OF EITHER RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE REDUCED OUR ABILITY TO BE HELPFUL IN ENCOURAGING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. THEREFORE, WE ABSTAINED ON BOTH.

3. WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS ISSUE CLOSELY AND AT A HIGH LEVEL. WE REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH BOTH SIDES ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND THE PARTIES HAVE BRIEFED US ON THE PROGRESS OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS. VANCE

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Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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